

time. Following the initial frantic activity on the part of each, both males were at once sedate as soon as "coupling" had occurred.

I had always assumed that pheromone production by female insects ceased as soon as a male had coupled, thereby avoiding the undesirable attentions of further males. Certainly this appears to be the case in that classic pheromone producer *Saturnia pavonia* Linnaeus, the emperor moth, when males instantly lose interest in the female as soon as she has been paired, (although they may still hang around the scent on adjacent objects). Perhaps then this is not necessarily the case! — C. W. PLANT, Assistant Curator, Natural Sciences (Biology), Passmore Edwards Museum, Romford Road, Stratford, London, E15 4LZ.

SIBINIA ARENARIAE STEPH. (COL.: CURCULIONIDAE) IN WEST KENT. — On 17th August last, while grubbing under and at the roots of herbage on a fairly dry track near a creek of the R. Darent near its confluence with the Thames in the Crayford Marshes area, I was pleased to come upon a fresh example of the pretty little weevil named above, and shortly afterwards another. Given time, a series could probably have been obtained. This is regarded as a very local coastal insect associated with '*Arenaria maritima*' — a plant whose name I do not find given by modern authorities; I had previously met with only two specimens. In the present case the plant in question is what I believe to be the related *Spergularia salina* J. & C. Presl. *Sibinia arenariae* would seem to be new to West Kent, though recorded from the extreme west of East Kent (Sheerness, in VCH list, 1908) and is doubtless common in suitable coastal and estuarine sites in the vice-county. — A. A. ALLEN.

THE DEATH'S HEAD HAWKMOTH: ACHERONTIA ATROPOS L. IN N. SOMERSET. — Two fully grown larvae of this moth were taken in a domestic garden at Hinton Charterhouse near Bath (VC.6) on 18th September 1984. One was feeding on potato haulm, whilst the other was dug up as it was beginning to pupate. — B. W. MOORE, F.R.E.S., Church Cottage, Church Lane, Batheaston, Bath.

AN UNUSUAL ABERRATION OF DIAPHORA MENDICA CLERCK IN HERTFORDSHIRE — I would like to report the capture of a most unusual male specimen of *D. mendica* (The Muslin) which, after comparison with the specimens housed at the British Museum of Natural History and discussion with D. Carter thereof, is best described as approaching aberration *rustica* Hb. The specimen was taken in one of our Harpenden light traps (Geescroft II, Site No. 99, O.S. Grid Ref. TL 131 127) on the night of 2/3 May, 1984 and was the only specimen of this species present in the catch for that night.

This pale buff-grey aberration is normally associated with Ireland, and its presence in England is therefore certainly worthy of note. — ADRIAN M. RILEY, Rothamsted Insect Survey, Entomology Department, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Herts.